

THREE NEW SPECIES OF SYRPHID FLIES IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

By F. M. HULL, *University of Mississippi*

Several years ago a collection of unstudied syrphid flies was submitted to the author by the British Museum of Natural History. Of the numerous new forms, two studies have appeared in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (series II). This paper describes two species of *Baccha* and a species of *Ceriogaster*.

Baccha vera, new species

Abdomen long and quite slender; third and fourth segments each with a pair of subquadrate, yellow spots, only the second and third segments with opaque black markings. Sixth segment short but flattened dorso-ventrally. Related, perhaps, to *lativentris* Curran.

Female.—Length 11 mm. *Head*: Vertex shining black with a single row of black hairs. The front is flattened and transversely striate on all except the lower callus area, and shining steel-blue. The sides of the front are narrowly yellowish-white with whitish pile. The pile over the central portion of the front is blackish. Face yellowish-white, narrower below from in front. The tubercle is well developed, the cheeks light brown, the pile of face white and the sides silvery pubescent, except on the lowest sixth; antennae light brown.

Thorax: Shining blackish, with two, broad, widely separated, bluish-black, grey pollinose vittae; sides of mesonotum also dark. The humeri are light brown, the scutellum brownish-black, or very dark brown with short, abundant, pale pile; the ventral fringe, if present, can not be detected. The upper part of the mesopleuron, its posterior margin and a spot on the upper sternopleuron are yellowish-white; remainder of pleura very dark brown; all thoracic pile white.

Abdomen: Extremely slender, shining brownish-black; there is a short, opaque black annulus near the posterior fourth of the second segment and there are a pair of widely separated, small, lateral, somewhat oval, yellowish spots in the middle of the anterior half of the third segment and a pair of larger, subquadrate, narrowly subbasal spots upon the fourth segment with their postero-medial corners rounded. The sixth segment is widened and dorso-ventrally flattened, but is rounded apically, and is without ridges to enclose the laterally flattened, short ovipositor. *Legs*: First and second pairs of legs pale whitish-yellow; there is a wide, subapical brown band on each femur and the last two tarsal joints are pale brown; the pile is whitish. The hind femora, except for their narrow bases and narrow apices are dark brown; these other parts, the basal two fifths of the hind tibia and the last sixth of the hind basitarsus and remaining tarsal joints are whitish. First part of basitarsus and greater part of its tibia blackish and black pilose. *Wings*: Elongate, slender and hyaline; the stigmal cell is brown, the costal cell pale brownish-yellow. Alulae practically but not quite absent. The linear vestige is only a third or less as wide as the basal portion of the costal cell.

Holotype: A female. Amazon (66.53). British Museum of Natural History.

Baccha triloba, new species

Abdomen steel blue, with opaque black pattern, the fourth segment trilobate. Related, perhaps to *lativentris* Curran.

Female.—Length 6.5 mm. *Head*: Vertex steel-blue with a single row of black hairs. The front is wholly shining steel-blue with whitish pile. The antennal callus is also steel blue. The face is entirely steel-blue except for a tiny brown spot on the moderate tubercle; the sides of the face are widely silvery pubescent and white pilose. The cheeks are very narrow and pale brown; the antennae dark brown. *Thorax*: Mesonotum shining bluish-black with, viewed obliquely, a pair of slender, narrow, submedial, blackish and more or less linear vittae; near the middle upon either side there is a similar one. The halteres are dark brown. The sides of the mesonotum, the whole pleura and scutellum are concolorous with the mesonotum. All the thoracic pile erect and whitish and quite sparse upon the scutellum. The extreme rim of the scutellum is somewhat reddish-brown. *Abdomen*: Flattened, spatulate, very little narrower basally, and shining bluish-black marked with opaque black. Beginning just at or past the middle of the second segment there is a wide, opaque black, continuous fascia narrowed laterally. In the middle of the third segment there is a transverse, black, opaque fascia which is postero-medially indented; the lateral portions of the anterior margin of this fascia are rounded and convex upon either side and the anteromedial portion extends forward as an anterior, rounded, narrow wedge that does not reach the base of the segment. Pattern of fourth segment similar to third. Fifth segment with three, somewhat elongate, vittate black spots. *Legs*: Dark brown, the apical fifth of each of the first four femora and the narrow apices of the hind pair and the basal halves of all of the tibiae pale yellowish. The hind basitarsi and remaining joints are dark brownish-black. *Wings*: Basal half faintly and dilutely brown including whole of the stigmal cell; apical portion hyaline; alulae quite well developed.

Holotype.—A female. Amazon (66-53) British Museum of Natural History.

Ceriogaster funebris, new species

Mesonotum with two divided, narrow, golden pollinose fascia, and a similar triangle before the scutellum; abdomen but little constricted, with a pair of elongate, reddish vittae. Related to *rudis* Hull with wider abdomen and no reddish vittae, etc.

Male.—Length 7 mm. *Head*: Vertex shining greenish-black, but opaque black across the ocelli and yellowish pubescent in front and also behind the ocelli. The upper part of the occiput has a single row of stout, black spines. The front and the sides of the face are covered with pale, brassy or golden pubescence; the ground color of the sides of the face and the posterior part of the cheeks are reddish-brown. The face is keeled, greenish black, transversely striate, and the cheeks separated by an angle and ridged. There is a slight

depression in the face beneath the antennae. The antennae are moderately elongate, the first two joints of each light reddish-brown, the third joint greyish-brown. Arista long and slender, light brown basally, darker apically. The eyes touch for only a short distance, perhaps less than twice the length of the anterior ocellus. The upper anterior facets of the eyes are greatly enlarged. *Thorax*: Dull black, with densely black, microscopic pile, with two, widely interrupted, prominent, transverse stripes of golden pubescence. The posterior stripe borders the transverse suture. The anterior stripe is interhumeral, its anterior margin has a row of stout, black spinules. There is a narrow band of whitish pubescence posteriorly on the mesopleuron and the whole sternopleuron is silvery pubescent and there is fainter pubescence over much of the remainder of the pleura, the metasternum and their coxae. There is short white pile posteriorly on the mesopleuron and some on the pteropleuron. There is short golden pile on the anterior golden fascia and some on the extreme anterior lateral portion of the mesonotum. The humeri are greenish-black with pale pile and some darker hairs. There are black spinules on the anterior portion of the post-calli and some above the wing. There is a more or less triangular, wide patch of bright golden pubescence in front of the scutellum with an antero-medial extension. Viewed dorsally the scutellum is brassy with some golden pubescence and sparse, short, black appressed setae. Three or four or five pale short hairs on the ventral fringe. *Abdomen*: Subpetiolate, the second segment about equally wide basally as apically and with, on either side, a large, lateral, shining, brownish-red vittate stripe. This leaves the middle of the segment opaque brownish-black. The abdomen begins to expand at the base of the short third segment; this segment is faintly greenish-black upon the base and extensively in the anterior corners, becoming more metallic upon the sides; the posterior margins are linearly shining. The greater portion of the third segment, from corner to corner, is covered by an opaque black triangle which reaches the mid point of the base of the segment. Fourth segment entirely dull, feebly shining black with, broadly over the center, a very faint milky-bluish cast; it becomes more greenish or brassy and metallic upon the lateral margins and dark reddish-brown upon the posterior margins. The short hypopygium is also reddish brown. Pile of the abdomen pale brassy upon the sides, becoming black, short, microscopic and appressed throughout the middle of the first three segments and upon the central portion of the base of the fourth segment. The pile of the fourth segment over the middle of the base and the whole of the posterior part is shining, pale yellow. *Legs*: Dark shining brown, the whole of the anterior tibiae except their narrow bases and all of their tarsi jet black. The anterior tarsi are flattened, but only moderately widened. The tarsal pile is black and the tibial pile black except upon the posterior surface where it is white. Hind femora moderately thickened, less thickened than in *rudis* Hull. The first four hind tarsal joints and mid tarsal joints are light brownish to yellow. *Wings*: Pale brownish hyaline, the stigmal cell dark brown.

Holotype.—A male. British Guiana, Essequibo River, Moraballi Creek, August 20, 1929. Oxford University Expedition. British Museum of Natural History.
